

House Resolution

No. 16

Introduced by Assembly Member Santiago

April 15, 2015

House Resolution No. 16—Relative to Cinco de Mayo Week.

1 WHEREAS, Cinco de Mayo, or the fifth of May, is
2 memorialized as a significant date in the history of California and
3 Mexico in recognition of the Latinos of California who offered
4 their support and risked their lives to defend freedom and
5 democracy in both the United States and Mexico; and

6 WHEREAS, Since the beginning of the American Civil War,
7 Latinos in California have shown their support for the institutions
8 of freedom and democracy by joining the forces of the United
9 States Army, Cavalry, and Navy, risking their lives to defend free
10 institutions; and

11 WHEREAS, Those who were unable to join the Armed Forces
12 of the Union freely offered their support for President Abraham
13 Lincoln; and

14 WHEREAS, The American Civil War, making it impossible
15 for the United States to enforce the Monroe Doctrine, provided an
16 opportunity for the Emperor of France, Napoléon III, to establish
17 a monarchy in Mexico, thereby attempting to destroy democratic
18 institutions that derive their power from the consent of the
19 governed; and

20 WHEREAS, Latinos, including Californians, also offered their
21 support and risked their lives in Mexico to defend freedom and
22 democracy in that country by joining the armed forces of that sister
23 republic; and

1 WHEREAS, Those who were unable to travel to Mexico to
2 physically defend free institutions freely offered their support to
3 President Benito Juárez by organizing over 122 Juntas Patrióticas
4 Mexicanas within California to raise funds that were sent every
5 month from California to Mexico to defray the costs of war in that
6 country; and

7 WHEREAS, Cinco de Mayo serves to remind us that the
8 foundation of any nation and our state is its people, in their spirit
9 and courage in the face of adversity, in the strength of their drive
10 to achieve self-determination, and in their willingness to sacrifice
11 even life itself in the pursuit of freedom and liberty; and

12 WHEREAS, Cinco de Mayo offers an opportunity to reflect on
13 the courage and achievements not only of the Mexican forces at
14 Puebla, but also on the courage and achievements of Latinos here
15 in California; and

16 WHEREAS, Achievements by Latinos in America and
17 California include contributions to all facets of our community;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Latino voters continue to go to the polls in record
20 numbers and influence the entrance of newly elected Latino public
21 officials in both the Democratic and Republican parties and
22 influence issues that encompass providing affordable housing,
23 investing in our children, ensuring that higher education is
24 affordable and accessible, creating good paying jobs for working
25 families, and improving the overall quality of life for all
26 Californians; and

27 WHEREAS, California's Latinos have contributed to the state's
28 culture and society through their many achievements in music,
29 food, dance, poetry, literature, architecture, entertainment, sports,
30 and a broad spectrum of artistic expression; and

31 WHEREAS, Latinos in California have challenged the frontiers
32 of social and economic justice, thereby improving the working
33 conditions and lives of countless Californians; and

34 WHEREAS, Latino entrepreneurs in the United States are the
35 fastest growing group of business owners in our economy; and

36 WHEREAS, In 2001, the Latino Caucus saw a need to recognize
37 and honor distinguished Latinos for their contributions and
38 dedication to California and the United States' economy and
39 cultural life with the annual Latino Spirit Awards. These recipients
40 are outstanding individuals who have greatly contributed to the

1 wonderful music, poetry, literature, journalism, and entertainment
2 of California, the United States, and the world; now, therefore, be
3 it

4 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, That the*
5 *Assembly urges all Californians to join in celebrating Cinco de*
6 *Mayo, the historic day to honor the brave spirit of Latinos from*
7 *California who defended freedom and democracy in the United*
8 *States during the Civil War and in Mexico during the French*
9 *Intervention, and the Latino noncombatants who freely gave their*
10 *votes and resources to defend free institutions, and the Latinos of*
11 *California who fought to defend the freedom of the United States*
12 *in every armed conflict from the Spanish American War to the*
13 *current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan; and be it further*

14 *Resolved, That the Assembly declares May 4 through May 8,*
15 *2015, as Cinco de Mayo Week; and be it further*

16 *Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies*
17 *of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.*